

REMARKS

PENDING CLAIMS

Claims 1-6 are pending in the application.

Rejection under 35 USC §101

In the Office Action, Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 USC §101. The Examiner recommends positive recitation of a computer or other technology.

It is respectfully submitted that Claims 1-6 qualify as statutory subject matter. Claims 1 and 2 specifically recite a method in a computing system. Claims 3 and 4 specifically recite a computer-readable medium whose contents cause a computing system to perform a process.” Claims 5 and 6 recite a computing system. Thus, Claims 1-6 are directly tied to a computer and qualify as statutory subject matter.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner’s rejections be withdrawn.

Rejection under 35 USC §112, 2nd Paragraph

In the Office Action, Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 USC §112, 2nd Paragraph. Specifically, the Office Action states that the phrase “a predetermined mapping” is indefinite.

It is respectfully submitted that the phrase “a predetermined mapping” refers to the predetermined mapping from activity types to expense types. In other words, there is a specified mapping between an activity type and an expense type. Thus, the rejections of claims 1-6 under 35 USC §112, 2nd Paragraph should be withdrawn.

Examiner's Interpretation of Terms and Claims

In the Office Action, the Examiner requires that the Applicant state whether the Applicant desires to use lexicography with respect to claim limitations. From the office action, it is not possible to determine which claim terms, in the Examiner's opinion, are at issue. The Examiner has only specified two terms at issue, namely, "server" and "client" for which the Examiner has stated he will adopt the dictionary meaning as provided in Computer Dictionary, 3rd Edition, Microsoft, Redmond, WA, 1997. Applicant agrees that the terms, "server" and "client" can be interpreted as stated in the Office Action. However, since the office action has neither listed any other claim terms that are at issue, nor has the Examiner provided any definitions for any terms other than "server" and "client", the Applicant is unable to determine if the Examiner's interpretation of other claim terms is different than the Applicant's interpretation. Thus, the Applicant does not forgo lexicography until such time as when the Examiner can provide definitions for all the terms that the Examiner feels are at issue and when such definitions are not disputed by the Applicant.

Claims 1-6 are not product-by-process claims in that the claimed product is not the expense report. However, Applicant is claiming a computer method (claims 1, 2), a computer readable medium (claims 3, 4) and a computer system (claims 5, 6).

Examiner's Determination of One Skilled in the Art

In the Office Action, the Examiner states that one skilled in the art "must be aware of and understand the knowledge and information contained in the following references: How Computers Work, Millennium Ed. By Ron White; How Networks Work, Millennium Ed. By Frank J. Derfler et al.; How the Internet Works, Millennium Ed. By Preston Gralla; Paradox For Windows User's Guide by Borland; ReportSmith For Windows User's Guide by Borland. The Examiner's arrived at such a conclusion by opining that the above references by White, Gralla and Borland are directed to one of "low skill in the art".

It is respectfully submitted that the Applicant is not necessarily of the same opinion as the Examiner. The standard for "one of ordinary skill in the art is a factual determination. The Examiner's standards for one of low skill in the art and one of ordinary skill in the art are not legal or factual conclusions that are substantiated by a court of law. The Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's opinion of what constitutes "ordinary skill in the art." Thus, the Applicant properly traverses the Examiner's position.

Rejection under 35 USC §§102, 103

It is respectfully submitted that the cited art neither anticipates nor makes obvious claims 1-6 for the following reasons. Independent claims 1, 3, and 5, each include the novel feature of creating expense reports in response to two user actions, namely the activation of a first and second button. Thus, expense reports are created automatically after the second button is activated by the user. In contrast, Vance et al. teaches away from such a feature. In Vance, the expense reports are created semi-automatically. The traveler in Vance constructs "an expense report semi-automatically" (see column 9, lines 1-5). Further, in Vance, the user is required to navigate through at least 13 GUI pages and supply user input in each of the 13 GUI pages before a report can be generated semi-automatically. Thus, independent claims 1, 3, and 5 are in condition for allowance.

Claims 2, 4, and 6 are dependent on claims 1, 3 and 5, respectively, and include all the features of their corresponding independent claim. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 2, 4 and 6 are allowable for at least the reasons provided herein with respect to Claims 1, 3 and 5. Furthermore, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 2, 4 and 6 recite additional features that independently render Claims 2, 4 and 6 patentable over the cited art.

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Therefore, the issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance is believed next in order, and that action is most earnestly solicited.

Application No.: 10/769,117

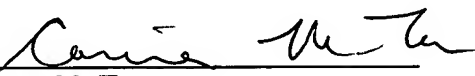
Docket No.: 384818524US2

If in the opinion of the Examiner a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at (650) 838-4311.

If a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 50-0665, under Order No. 384818524US2 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated:

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Carina M. Tan

Registration No.: 45,769

PERKINS COIE LLP

P.O. Box 1247

Seattle, Washington 98111-1247

(650) 838-4311

(650) 838-4350 (Fax)

Attorney for Applicant